PLANTAE COLOMBIANAE XVI

SAURAUIAE PROVINCIAE PUTUMAYONIS SPECIES NOVA

BY

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES

SELDOM in a large genus such as the dilleniaceous *Saurauia* does a new species appear with a distinguishing character so sharp as that in the following hitherto undescribed concept.

Saurauia Alvaroi *R. E. Schultes sp. nov.*

Arbor aliquid robusta, usque ad quadraginta pedes alta. Rami fusci, lepidoti, squamis minutissimis, albis subcrystallinisque. Ramuli similes. Foliorum lamina petiolata, valde coriacea, obovata, apice acuminata, basi cuneata, minute et irregulariter (apicem versus praecipue) serrulata, supra vivo atroviridis et glabra, infra (in nervis densiore) minutissime stellato-pilosa, nervi centralis partem basalem versus laciniis duabus vexilliformibus ad perpendiculum directis 6.5 cm. longis, usque ad 1.2 cm. altis extremis ambis cohaesis ex lamina prorumpentibus atque septum canaliculatum formantibus, usque ad 35 cm. longa, 16 cm. lata; nervis plusminusve duodeviginti, subparallelis; petiolus robustus, 3–5 cm. longus, 5 mm. in diametro. Inflorescentiae multiflorae, foliis breviores, usque ad 25 cm. longae; pedunculis aureofuscis, lepidotis; bracteis siccis, subulatis, setosis, usque ad 5 mm. longis. Flores subsessiles, aromatico-fragrantes,

alabastro 5–6 mm. in diametro. Sepala quinque, aurea, in maturitate sicca atque persistentia, obovata vel subrotundata, 6–7 mm. lata, plusminusve 9 mm. longa, extus dense aureo-setoso-scabrida, inter setis minutissime et densissime albido-subcrystallino-squammata, margine minutissime ciliata, intus glaberrima. Petala quinque, alba, fere usque ad basim libera, membranacea, glabra, subquadrangulate rotundato-ovata, margine undulata, plusminusve 7 mm. lata, 7 mm. longa. Stamina plusminusve quadraginta, corollae basi valde adhaerentia, basi longe et dense lanato-barbata. Staminum filamenta 2.5–3 mm. longa; antherae flavae, versatiles, 3 mm. longae. Ovarium globosum, quinque-partitum, glabrum, 2.5 mm. in diametro, quinque cum stylis carnosis parvisque. Fructus adhuc ignotus.

Saurauia Alvaroi may be distinguished from all other known concepts of the genus by a most curious canal-like pouch which is formed by two conspicuous vexilliform flaps arising perpendicularly from the base of the leaf blade along the midrib and which are joined together at their apical and basal ends. The purpose of this unusual structure is not clear. In none of the many leaves examined on the type tree and others was there evidence that the flaps might in any way be concerned with insect habitation. In all examples, the canal was empty. This species, which I can relate closely to no known concept, likewise differs from most Colombian species of *Saurauia* in its large number of stamens and in having an almost entirely glabrous upper surface of the leaves.

The exceptionally rich cloud forest which clothes the Portachuelo or Sachamates range between the Valley of Sibundoy and the great Amazonian *planada* beginning east of Mocoa constitutes one of the botanically most virgin areas of Colombia. The genus *Saurauia* is relatively well represented in the parts of this forest lying

PLATE XXXIX



SAURAUIA ALVAROI *R. E. Schultes.* 1, flowering branch, approximately one half natural size. 2, basal portion of leaf, showing flap, approximately one half natural size. 3, flower, approximately twice natural size.

Drawn by DOROTHY H. MARSH

between about 2100 and 3400 meters, where typical species are *S. brachybotrys*, *S. portachuelensis* and *S. putumayonis*. *Saurauia Alvaroi* appears to be limited to an altitudinal band of perhaps 150 meters near the lowest range of the genus in this mountain chain. In spite of its limited altitudinal range, the species is well represented in the forest. A large number of individuals, mostly not in flower, were studied along a very short stretch of the automobile road leading to the town of Mocoa.

Saurauia Alvaroi is named in honor of my Colombian colleague, Dr. Alvaro Fernandez Pérez, botanist, chemist and plant explorer, Curator of the Herbario Nacional Colombiano of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia. Dr. Fernandez has advanced the cause of science in Colombia not only through his own extensive field work and research but also through willing and efficacious help to foreign botanists who visit Colombia for the purpose of studying its unequalled tropical flora.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Putumayo. Road from San Francisco to Mocoa, at ten kilometers above Pepino Camp. Cloud forest. About 2250 m. "Tree up to 40 ft. tall. Leaves with basal flap. Flowers aromatic, white." July 27, 1960, *Richard Evans Schultes 22551* (TYPE in Herb. Gray; DUPLICATE TYPE in Herb. Nac. Colomb.; Econ. Herb. Oakes Ames; Herb. Chicago).